

# The SWORD of the LORD

"And they cried, The Sword of the Lord, and of Gideon." Judges 7:20

Edited by JOHN R. RICE.

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## SOLD OUT TO JESUS

By DR. JOE HENRY HANKINS

(Message given at Evangelistic Conference, Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina, June 18, 1948. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"And it came to pass, that, as they went in the way, a certain man said unto him, Lord, I will follow thee whithersoever thou goest. And Jesus said unto him, Foxes have holes, and birds of the air have nests; but the Son of man hath not where to lay his head. And he said unto another, Follow me. But he said, Lord, suffer me first to go and bury my father. Jesus said unto him, Let the dead bury their dead: but go thou and preach the kingdom of God. And another also said, Lord, I will follow thee; but let me first go bid them farewell, which are at home at my house. And Jesus said unto him, No man, having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."—Luke 9:57-62.

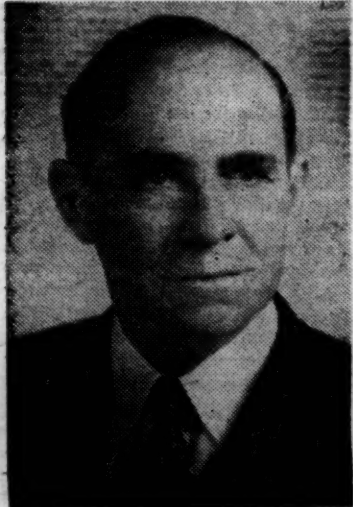
"Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind."—Luke 10:27.

"And there went great multitudes with him: and he turned, and said unto them, If any man come to me, and hate not his father, and mother, and wife, and children, and brethren, and sisters, yea, and his own life also, he cannot be my disciple. And whosoever doth not bear his cross, and come after me, cannot be my disciple . . . so likewise, whosoever he be of you that forsaketh not all that he hath, he cannot be my disciple."—Luke 14:25-27, 33.

Oh, I wonder if we believe that the Lord meant it just that way! It is a mighty straight line that the Lord draws, isn't it? These

are soul-searching, heart-searching words. Many of God's people, I fear, are prone to think of them as the multitude of followers did when Jesus refused to feed them again the second day after the miracle of the loaves and fishes. He had offered Himself to them

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Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

## With the Evangelists

Reports From America's Outstanding Soul Winners

By the Editor

An abundance of material has made it hard to get in all the reports of revival campaigns recently. We are glad to again give reports of how the soul winning work goes with the evangelists.

### Evangelist Rolfe Barnard Had Blessed Radio Revival With Rev. Harold B. Sightler on "The Bright Spot Hour"

A fine letter from our friend, Rev. Harold B. Sightler, of the chain radio broadcast, "The Bright Spot Hour," tells of blessings brought in a radio revival in which Evangelist Rolfe Barnard preached.

Brother Sightler says: "Dear Dr. Rice:

"I have surely enjoyed the portion of the conference I have had the joy of attending. From the testimony of others they, too, have enjoyed it. We are praying that the conference may again be held in Toccoa next year.

"Dr. Rice, I am sending to you a report of the radio revival we have just closed with Evangelist Rolfe Barnard doing the preaching. As far as I know this was the first radio revival effort ever tried in this territory. It was a great success. It came as a climax to a radio revival the Lord has been giving us for the past seven months. Almost one hundred souls have written to me during that period stating that

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before the subscription offer closes. This is the last call to have part in sending out subscriptions at this especially low rate of an 8-months' (35 weeks') subscription for \$1.00 and with the free premium book, God's Cure for Anxious Care, given for each \$3.00 worth of subscriptions.

The deadline is September 15, at midnight. That does not mean that subscriptions must reach us by September 15, but that your letter must be mailed in your local post office so as to be postmarked not later than midnight, September 15.

#### Some Facts to Consider

1. More harm is done by neglect than by nearly any other sin! (Continued on Page 6)

## Knowing God

By REV. BOB JONES, Sr., D.D., LL.D.

Founder Bob Jones University, Greenville, South Carolina

(Preached at Third Annual Sword of the Lord Evangelistic Conference, Winona Lake, Indiana, July 4, 1947. Mechanically recorded for THE SWORD OF THE LORD.)

"When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am? And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets. He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am? And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God. And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven. And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it. And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."—Matt. 16:13-19.

I call your special attention to two or three expressions: "Whom say ye that I am?" "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my

Father which is in heaven."

If you look through a microscope you will catch a glimpse of a world invisible to the natural eye, inhabited by an innumerable host of tiny creatures. You look about you with your own eyes to catch a glimpse of rippling streams and lashing waves, mountain peaks and rolling plains, of blooming flowers and dense forests. Then you turn the telescope toward the heavens and in your dreams you go to ten thousand other worlds. And in accents loud and long you are made to exclaim, "There must be a God!"

To my mind, there is no more reasonable statement in all the Bible than the statement, "The fool hath said in his heart, There is no God" (Psa. 53:1). Only a fool would make any such statement. And you will notice that

the fool did not say it in his head; he said it in his heart. No man ever said in his head, "There is no God." And the fool in his heart did not say that God did not exist. The meaning is, "There is no God for me." Everybody knows there is a God. Someone has said, "God dwells everywhere. His history is in every bud and blossom and leaf and tree. The earthquake is but the tread of His foot and He dwells in the dark pavilion of the storm cloud. The lightning is the

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Dr. Bob Jones

## Should We Preach On Hell?

By the Editor

From a good pastor there comes a letter suggesting that evangelists preach too much on Hell. Since the question of preaching against sin, preaching on Hell and judgment often comes up, and since the modernists, the worldly crowd and the ultra-dispensationalists often bring up this issue, I feel it wise to publish our brother's letter and my answer.

Enemies of the gospel often talk about the wisdom of doing "positive" preaching, not "negative" preaching. Any preaching against sin, any call to repentance, any warning of judgment or Hell, any attack on worldliness they call "negative" preaching, and they boast that their preaching is "positive." The actual truth is that those who do not preach the whole counsel of God do not honestly represent Christ and the Bible. Those who do not preach against sin and do not warn of Hell and judgment are not positive at all. Their preaching is insipid,

without conviction, without boldness. They try to please men instead of God. They are more concerned with being tactful than in getting people saved. They water down the gospel. It is certainly not accurate to call any such preaching positive preaching. There is a positive, dogmatic and powerful note in the preaching of Jesus and the apostles and the prophets against sin, the preaching of Hell and judgment for Christ-rejecting sinners, the holy call to repentance. These terms

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## Last Call!

Special Offer, 8-Month Subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD for \$1, with Beautiful Book, "God's Cure for Anxious Care," Free for Every \$3 Worth of Subscriptions, Closes Midnight, September 15. This Is the Last Reminder!

This is written Monday, August 30. Just now we still lack 3,000 subscriptions of having 15,000 for which we asked God and the readers in this campaign. We believe we will reach the 15,000. After much earnest prayer we have confidence that God has heard and that the people will help. If all do our duty we will have a glorious time for Christ and for the spread of the gospel. But oh, reader, if you fail us and fail God, there will be humiliation and deep grief for concerned Christians who read THE SWORD OF THE LORD as well as for the editor, but I know God will help us go over the top in a wonderful way.

This is the last issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD in which we can remind you of this matter



## Knowing God

(Continued from Page 1)

flash of His eye and the thunder is the echo of His voice." If you have eyes to see, you can see God wherever you look.

A man said to me not long ago, "You cannot prove there is a God." Well, I have proved it. If there has ever been one answer to prayer in the history of the world, that is all the proof you need that there is a God. I have had a thousand answers to prayer. I know there is a God! You do not have to tell me; I have come in contact with Him. He has made Himself known to me.

### God Wants to Reveal Himself to Men

Now, wait a minute: this great, omnipotent God is endeavoring to make Himself known to men and women. Did you ever stop to think what a great task God Almighty has in making Himself known to us? You hear men talking about "seeking God," "looking for God," "a quest for God." Say, listen! If you ever know God, God will have to make Himself known to you. The God who can wrap up the power that He puts in an atom is too big a God for any mind on earth to grasp and understand and find. God must make himself known.

I remember years ago on our platform at the college we had a great preacher preaching, and I never shall forget how high he carried me into the sky. He talked about the universe and the God of this universe. He kept talking. After a while, when he had carried me as high as I thought I could go, he stopped suddenly and said, "The God of this universe can crush the greatest intellects in the world under the weight of one atom and drown the greatest minds in all the world in one little drop of water!" And I said, "What a God! How can I know Him? Who by searching can find God?"

I would like to ask you tonight if you know Him.

Men talk about going up through nature to nature's God. There are things about God that nature cannot tell me. I remember years ago I was in Galveston, Texas, conducting a revival. I walked up and down the sea wall. An old preacher who went through the Galveston flood and lost his wife and child told me that tragic story of how on that awful night the hand of nature reached out of the dark pavilion of a storm cloud, dipped up the water by the millions of gallons and poured it upon the streets of the city, and how in one single night ten thousand people were drowned. I said, "How can I go up through storms like that to God?"

I remember I was conducting some service some years ago in New York City. One night after church I heard a man crying out on the streets, "Buy a paper! Read about the sinking of the Titanic!" I rushed out and bought a paper and read about the hand of nature freezing an iceberg and pushing it out into the current of the sea. I read how that ship coming across the ocean came in contact with the iceberg formed by the hand of nature, and how that night sixteen hundred singing people went to the bottom of the sea.

There are some things about God that nature cannot tell me. Yes, "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament sheweth his handywork"—that is all so; but there are some things about God that nature cannot tell me.

**The Bible Is God's Revelation**  
So God wrote a Bible. Now listen! This Book is the only book that has ever been written that speaks with authority about

the will of God. I may know there is a God, but I cannot know God's will unless I have this Book. If you cannot find the will of God between the lids of this Book, there is no revelation of God's will ever given to man. Men go up and down this country ridiculing the Bible, as Bob Ingersoll did in the old days. He used to stand up before a crowd and start to read. Suddenly he would stop and say, "Ladies and gentlemen, you will have to excuse me; I cannot read the rest of that chapter. It is not decent to read to a mixed audience." Then the crowd of supposedly intellectual people would applaud. Say, that is not smart! There are things in every medical book in this city you would not read to a mixed audience. They are not indecent; they are not unclean. They just were not written for the mixed crowds. There might be things in the Bible—I do not say there are, but there might be things in the Bible that God did not mean to be read to mixed crowds. But that is no argument against the Bible. This Bible deals with the diseases of the soul. The diseases of the soul are more terrible than the diseases of the body, and God has to use some awful words in this Book in dealing with those diseases. But listen just a minute! This is the only absolutely holy book the world ever saw. Men are not against this book because it is bad; they are against it because it is good and they are bad. You go with me into some city today and walk down that street of sin into that home of infamy where those soiled doves live in their shame. You will not find any Bible there. You will find bad pictures on the wall. You will hear bad music at the piano. You will hear them sing wicked songs and tell bad stories. But there is no Bible. You bring the old Bible and put it on the center table. One day one of those poor fallen creatures begins to thumb her way through the Book and she stops to read something. Then she reads something else. Then she begins to weep. Then the tears are dried and light comes to her face and she says, "Praise God!" Then she looks at that picture and says, "Take it off the wall; I cannot stand it!" She says, "Stop that music; I don't want to hear that music!" This is God's Book. It tells me about the will of God.

### The Wise and Ignorant Can Know God Alike, Only By Personal Contact

And did you know that you can know God? That is the glory of it. You can know God and not know much else. I remember years ago I had a letter from Dr. Howard Kelly, the great physician and scientist in Baltimore. Dr. Kelly said, "Dear Dr. Jones:

"I read last week's issue of your little paper, THE FELLOW-SHIP NEWS. I am enclosing a check and want you to send a copy to the following scientists. I want them to read that copy of the paper." There were about a hundred names of prominent scientists. About the same time I began to get letters from people who could scarcely read, people living in mountain cabins, saying, "I would like to have an extra copy of a certain issue of the paper." I said to my secretary, "Get that paper; what is it in that paper that they want?" It was just a little editorial about Christian experience. I said, "Isn't that wonderful? There is Dr. Howard Kelly, the great scientist. He can go into a laboratory where poor women cannot go. He can sit down with the great scientists and talk about cancer and diseases as these others cannot do. Yet when it comes to knowing God, the old woman in the cabin can call God 'My Father' just as well as could Dr. Kelly. Her husband is on the side of the mountain plowing. She is in the back yard washing the clothes. The little children are playing in the dirt. And she is singing

How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord,  
Is laid for your faith in His excellent Word!

And I say, "Wait a minute, lady. Have you heard the latest?"

She says, "What is the latest?" "Well, over here in Chattanooga the other night a man who has a rather large telescope turned the telescope to the sky and discovered a star. Then he sat down and figured: in seventy-five years, one month, one week, one day, one hour, one minute, one second, that star will pass the same point again. Isn't he wonderful?"

She says, "Isn't he wonderful?"

"Why, that smart boy in Chattanooga, that man with the telescope, that mathematician who can figure that thing out—isn't he wonderful?"

And she says, "Wasn't my Heavenly Father wonderful when He fixed the thing so it would run on time like that!" and goes on singing, "How firm a foundation, ye saints of the Lord!"

Say, the woman in a mountain cabin who can scarcely read and write but who knows that the stars come up under divine command and the sun goes down under divine orders—that woman knows more than the greatest astronomer the world ever saw, unless the astronomer knows God. Do you know God?

I remember years ago, after I was converted, there was a woman in the community where I lived, a rather plain kind of woman, a good woman. Everybody believed in her religion. I have heard people say that they did not believe that old Steward So-and-So and old Deacon So-and-So had any religion. And they actually said one of the preachers did not have any. But,

brother, whenever you mentioned that old sister, every old sinner in the community would shut up. It would pay us to pick out a few of these old saints and support them, just to let them walk around town and advertise the saving grace of God!

So when I needed any help I used to go over to see her. I remember a man in the community, a skeptic, who spent his time trying to shake the faith of saints. That is a great job, isn't it? Say, I would rather be a bootlegger; I would rather be a harlot in the day of judgment than to be a preacher in a pulpit who disseminates his modern theology and puts a question mark in the minds of humble saints about the authority of the Bible and about God and divine grace. The hottest place in Hell, God Almighty is saving for men like that!

I remember one morning I went over to see this woman. She was sitting over in the corner of the room and the old community skeptic (we had only one skeptic in the community) was trying to shake her faith. He said that science teaches that the world may be millions of years old and the Bible says that it is only six thousand years old. I know now he was lying; the Bible does not say that. But I did not know any better then. I knew nothing about science and precious little about the Bible. He said that Joshua commanded the sun to stand still and the sun was already still. He just kept saying things, and I did not know how to answer him. I had not been converted long. I wanted somebody to say something, and I did not know what to say. I looked around at this old woman. I can see her now as she sat there and the tears started down her face. They would come down her face and get in the wrinkles and then drop to one side. Then a new flood of tears would come. I saw her swallow a sob. She was getting old. Her hair was white. It hung down to her shoulders like locks of gold. Then she smiled through her tears and said, "I don't know nothing you are talking about. I ain't never studied no science. I don't know much. But you can't do nothing to me. Sixty years ago when I was a little girl I met God one night. He has been with me all these years. He was with me when I married. He was with me when my first baby was born. He was with me when we buried the baby. He has been with me through all the years. You can't do nothing to me, mister! I know God!"

My childish heart leaped in my bosom and I said, "I would rather know what that woman knows than to be able to solve every problem and unravel every mystery in the universe of God." Say, do you know God? Men and women, listen to me! What this world needs is a personal contact with God. All this theoretical stuff in this country and all this high-brow scholarship in this country! What we need is an old-time mourners' bench where men can come to know God and get right with God! Do you know Him?

### One Can Know God Personally Without Understanding All About Him

Now, wait a minute; I want to get it over to you. I do not ask you if you understand God. There is not a scientist in the world who can understand Him. The more they delve into the universe, the less they understand Him. The more they learn, the less they think they know. I did not ask if you understand Him.

Did you know that you can know people that you never understand? Well, you can. I do not think any man who ever lived understood a woman. I have been married thirty-nine years. Thirty-nine years ago my wife and I spent our honeymoon in Toronto, Canada. I had a campaign in Ottawa, Canada, and we went there to spend our thirty-ninth anniversary. I used to think I understood her. The older we get, the less I understand her. Listen, it does not mean that you do not get along if you do not understand each other. Did you know that there is something

fascinating about it, when you do not always understand her. She keeps you guessing and you cannot quite fathom just what she meant and why she said it.

I know a great many people I do not understand. I do not understand Bob, Jr. Every day I find something I wonder about. I do not understand why God let my mother die when I was fourteen years old and break my heart so it would never heal. I do not understand why God lets little babies cry in pain. The saddest note that ever filled my heart is the cry of a little baby that cries out in his little bed of sickness. You know something hurts him. He knows something hurts him, too, and he cannot tell you what it is. I have seen men who tried to reconcile things with God and the goodness of God. I do not understand why God lets bombs drop on cities and kill babies. I can understand His letting old ornery men and wicked women get killed. But little babies, little helpless babies (I have three grandchildren)—little babies that lift up little hands in helplessness—God, I don't know why You let them get sick and why they are mangled sometimes. I do not understand—but if God told me I still would not understand. How could God tell me? He would have to use a vocabulary with which I am not familiar. If God told me why He let little babies die, He would have to talk in a language that is beyond the language and grasp of man. Say, I do not understand God many, many times.

But I never understood my father. When I was a little child I used to climb up in his lap and put my arms about his neck, put my head on his bosom and listen to his heart beat. As a little child it used to torment my mind to try to know what he meant, but the wiser he talked the tighter I hugged. I do not always understand God, but that is what makes Him so wonderful. A god I could understand would not be a big enough god to do anything for a sinner like me. I must have a God so great and so wonderful that He must keep me wondering all the time.

I never understood my mother. You did not understand your mother. She said things you did not understand. Excuse all these personal references tonight—I am just trying to be helpful. I remember my mother's voice. I have heard many voices in my lifetime, but my mother had a note in her throat I have never heard in another human throat. I am not saying that just because she was my mother. There was a note there. I remember talking to an old lawyer down South who

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D.D., LIT.D.  
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER

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## Sold Out to Jesus

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as the bread of life and said, "Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you" (John 6:53). They said, "This is a hard saying; how can we do that?" and they began to go away. I wonder if many of us who are followers of the Lord Jesus Christ are not oftentimes prone to say as we read these words, "This is a hard saying. I wonder if the Lord meant it just like that?"

Well, what does it mean?

It means that the Lord Jesus Christ will not accept divided allegiance. I think that the curse of Christianity today lies in the fact that the great rank and file of those who claim to be followers of Jesus Christ offer Him divided affection and divided allegiance. There isn't any question about it, the Bible teaches, as clearly as it teaches salvation by grace, that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, our Saviour, having saved and washed us in His blood, demands first place in our lives. None of us would try to deny that fact. The Bible is too clear on it. We readily admit that the Bible does teach it.

Then I think that all of us would readily admit, too, that Jesus is entitled to first place, that He has a right to demand it. But even after we have so freely admitted that He does demand it, that the Bible does teach it, that He has a right to it and a right to demand it, how few of us ever make a serious effort to do it, to go all out for Jesus, body, mind and soul—everything in us—sold out to the Lord!

I heard a great preacher once say that the man whom God can most effectively use is the man who in his life will practice a reckless abandon to the will of God. The world will think it is reckless and foolish. The fact is that the world has always thought people crazy who really have tried to follow in the footsteps of Jesus, and live in the center of His will, and do what He commands them to do. They called the Master crazy, and it seems to me as I study the Word that on one occasion they almost persuaded His own mother to that effect. He was over there preaching, teaching and performing miracles and His brothers went after Him and took His mother along. They sent word in: "Get Him and bring Him home; He is crazy!"

People called Paul crazy everywhere he went. He said, "If I am beside myself it is for your sakes. Knowing the terror of the Lord we persuade men." But he also said there was another reason for it: "The love of Christ constraineth us, because we thus judge, that if one died for all, then were all dead: And that he died for all, that they which live should not henceforth live unto themselves, but unto him which died for them, and rose again" (1 Cor. 5:14, 15). He meant, "The love of Christ has mastered me, has overpowered me, has enslaved me. It constrains me. I am sold out to Jesus! I am determined not to know anything among you save Jesus Christ and Him crucified. For me to live is Christ." Listen to him: It is not I that live, but "Christ liveth in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God" (Gal. 2:20). Sold out to Jesus!

Why should we abandon everything to the Lord Jesus Christ? Why should we lay everything on the altar—every talent of our lives, every ounce of our energy, every moment of our time? Why should we dedicate body, mind and soul to the Lord Jesus Christ? I give you four reasons this morning.

### 1. Only Absolute Surrender Is Worthy of Blood-Bought Salvation

First of all, and I have purposely put it at the top of the list, to offer Jesus Christ anything short of my all and my best is not worthy of a blood-bought salvation. I will go further and say

that it is an insult to Jesus to offer Him less than my best.

The Lord called me to preach when I was eight years old. I knew it just as well then as I know it this morning; but as I grew up into manhood there came into my heart a desire to have my own way. Our family had been poor people all of our lives, and I had an awful struggle getting through school. There came into my heart a consuming desire to have some of the things of this world that I had been denied as I grew up. So when I had finished college, I went into business. I became so absorbed in my business that I dreamed of that business day and night. I lived it every waking hour! I went at it with all I had in me. I determined to make a fortune. But all that time the thing that God had called me to do was gnawing at my heart.

One verse of Scripture haunted me almost day and night. Listen to it this morning! "Ye are not your own. For ye are bought with a price" (1 Cor. 6:19, 20). This verse of Scripture would keep coming back to my heart and mind. The Lord seemed to add this to it: "And you have no right to say no when I love you. You have no right to your own way; you have no right to take that which I have bought at such a price to use for yourself and selfish ends." I would try to push that verse of Scripture aside and press on toward my goal to make money.

During all those years the Lord would put these words into my wife's mouth every once in a while—sometimes at the most unexpected times—she would look at me and say, "The Lord doesn't save you to buy cotton." Every time she would say that, I would wish she would never say it again. It was as if she were thrusting a sword through my soul.

As time went on the burden got heavier. The hand of God kept pulling at my heartstrings and that verse of Scripture kept haunting me. I began to pray about it. Oh, I had a battle for months and even years over that thing. And when it came to a crisis—listen to me!—Jacob never had a harder wrestle with God than Joe Henry Hankins did.

But one night while praying I saw the Lord. I saw Him in Gethsemane's garden. I remembered that as He entered the garden He "began to be sore amazed, and to be very heavy; And saith unto them, [His disciples], My soul is exceeding sorrowful unto death" (Mark 14: 33, 34). Then I saw Him leaving the little group of eight at the entrance to the garden, and taking Peter, James and John, and going yonder and saying to them, "Watch ye here while I go yonder and pray." Then He went under an old Olive tree in the garden and fell on His face. I remembered that the Word of God said, "Being in an agony he prayed more earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). I saw then something I had never seen before, though I had read that many times. I had seen the blooddrops on His face, falling like great drops of sweat into the dust of the garden. But I remembered then that when a man's face is wet with perspiration, from his head to his feet every inch of his body is bathed in sweat. I saw every pore of my Lord's body open and His whole body bathed in His heart's blood, His garments dyed red with the blood of a breaking and agonizing soul and heart!

The Lord seemed to look up at me in the midst of it all and say, "You are not your own. You are bought with a price. This is the price, and you have no right to say no. You belong to Me."

Then I followed Him from that garden. I saw them come with the staves, the spears, the swords, and the officers. They bound Him, took Him away. They placed the crown of thorns on His head, covered His face with their spittle. They buffeted His lovely face until it was swollen, bruised and bloodshot—until the blood, streaming down from the thorns on His

## Dr. Bob Jones Says:

"About twenty years ago, I was in a cafeteria in a certain Southern city. A very bright-eyed girl who was working at the salad counter said, 'Dr. Bob when are you going to open your school?' I told the girl that we would be opening in just a few days. She said, 'I wish I could come to college, but I haven't any money. I would like to train for Christian work. I think I might be a missionary some time.' I told the young lady I would try to get somebody to help her financially. I found a friend who agreed to make this girl a loan so she could get through at least one year. She got through the first year, and she kept borrowing money from friends until she finished her education. After graduation the young lady became a city missionary under the Board of one of our leading evangelical denominations in America. She managed somehow, so I understand, to pay all she owed to the friends who helped her. One day the denomination sent this girl as a missionary to Europe. Later she married one of the best-known evangelistic Christian leaders in Europe. She is now a woman almost middle age. She is bright, talented, and consecrated. She has been greatly used of God. She is making a marvelous contribution to the special type work her husband is doing not only in Europe but in other parts of the world.

There are many hundreds of Christian young people just like this girl who will have to have some financial assistance if they are going to get a Christian education and train for Christian work. You see, I have been out a long time and have had a wide experience. I know young people. I know their needs, and I know what

many of them can do if they can just get 'a break.' That is the reason we are now asking Christian friends to help us raise a million-dollar Student Loan Endowment Fund. We want to help young people who must have some financial assistance if they are going to get a Christian education. If each one of you good orthodox, spiritually-minded Christian friends will contribute your share of this million dollars we are trying to raise, we will get the money. Enough people will read our appeals to raise every cent of this million dollars and can give it without any real sacrifice. Now, suppose you ask God to guide you in what He would have you to do, and suppose you just do what you think He would like to have you do. That is all we ask of you.

Remember this, if Bob Jones University can collect from every student for room, board, tuition, and fees, it can pay its operating overhead. So in helping us build this million-dollar Student Loan Endowment Fund, you will not only be helping worthy students get a Christian education but you will be helping the institution carry on its operating overhead. We are offering you a real opportunity to invest some money for God. Please send as large a cash contribution as possible; and from time to time as the Lord leads you, send some more. We will appreciate anything you can do, and we assure you that we will use the money in a practical sort of way so as to do the most good possible to the most people possible. Please let us hear from you and God bless you."

BOB JONES,  
Bob Jones University  
Greenville, S. C.  
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brow, mingled with the filthy spittle of wicked men.

Then He looked at me and said, "This is the price. You are not your own. You are bought with a price. You have no right to say no."

I saw Him as they stripped Him of His garments and bent Him over a whipping-post, as the Roman soldiers took up that awful instrument of torture known as the Roman scourge. Roman history says that it was made of nine strips of rawhide leather about two feet long, attached to a round handle about the same length. On the end of each strip of rawhide leather was a bit of iron or steel or lead. As the Roman soldier came down across a man's bare back with that awful instrument of torture, it literally tore his back to shreds and the blood was spilled everywhere.

I could hear that blood spatter-

ing on the marble floor of Pilate's judgment hall. Oh! I heard Him say again, "This is the price. You are not your own; you have no right to say no."

I followed Him out to the cross. I saw them nailing Him there and saw Him bleeding from His head, His hands, and His feet—bleeding His life away there in that awful hour when the darkness of Hell settled down upon Him. I heard that heartbroken cry, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?" and remember that He was taking my place; He was tasting death for me. Out of it all He said to me again, "You are not your own. You are bought with a price."

That night I fell down before Him and said, "Lord, I'll go. Business can go. Ambitions can go. Just give me strength; give me grace. Use me, Lord, and I'll follow. I'll go wherever You want

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## Knowing God

(Continued from Page 2)

said to me, "Dr. Bob, nearly fifty years ago I met your mother and I heard her talk for about five minutes. The beauty of her voice has haunted me through the years. I have never heard a voice like it."

One time in our college I sat in the gallery while my son was preaching. As he preached I heard a little note that somehow reminded me of my mother's voice. It was not her voice. It was not as sweet. It was not as wonderful. It was not strange, marvelous golden note. But I heard it, and I broke out into a sob. My mother has been dead since I was fourteen years old. That is about forty-nine years. If I were to walk out under the stars tonight and hear my mother's voice out yonder in the distance, and that voice just spoke one word, the word son, I would know it. That strange, tender indescribable, winning, wooing note—I never can forget it!

I do not always understand what God says, but, brother, I know that voice. "My sheep hear my voice," Jesus said. And I know His voice. You cannot tell me—since I found Him, when He speaks I say, "That is God talking." There is no voice like His. I can understand how demons fled

and I stand there for a moment I say, "Which way, God?" He says, "This way."

Sometimes I stagger under a load until my shoulders are tired and begin to droop, and He says, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest."

I say, "God, here I am," and He lifts the load. I understand some things.

Listen, He said, "My grace is sufficient," and I know what that means. Sufficient is sufficient; I have learned that.

I can understand, "My God shall supply all your need." Say, it is wonderful how much we can understand. Listen, you can understand enough, brother; just do what you understand!

### Calvary; the Way to Know God Personally

Sinner, are you listening tonight? You are not supposed to understand. You are dead. You are dead in trespasses and sin, and dead folks cannot hear unless God quickens them so they can hear. But let's tune in and see if we can get something. All right, get ready. "Give us connection, please. Yes, Holy Ghost, connect us. Yes. All right, He is on the wire, is He? All right, go ahead, God. What do You say to these sinners. We are listening. Yes, they are here tonight. They do not know what we are talking about, some of them. Can You tell them something they can understand? Yes, tell them what You told me one day. Tell them what You told that old bum who was staggering to Hell. Tell them what You told that soiled dove of the underworld one day, that day You made her as pure as snow. Come on, God, talk to them."

All right, listen; He is speaking: "For God so loved the world..."

"Yes—loved the world," I know; but You mean good people, don't You? You mean all the nice folks, don't you?"

"No, no! Listen: '...so loved the world [that means everybody,

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## Sold Out to Jesus

(Continued from Page 3)

me to go. I'll be what You want me to be."

If you are ever tempted to offer Jesus less than your best, sit down underneath Calvary a while and contemplate it again. If you do, I believe you will say with me that to offer Jesus anything less than your best is an insult to Him.

### 2. God Can Only Use Sold-Out People

Then again, why should I offer Jesus my dead-level best? Because those who do so are the only people the Lord can really use. The Lord can only use those whom He possesses, heart and soul.

We used to have in Texas a very quaint old Baptist preacher, Dr. Gambrell, a Christian philosopher as well as a preacher. He had some of the most pungent sayings. One of them which I shall never forget was this: "God Almighty can hit some powerful Hicks with a crooked stick, if God owns the stick."

Somebody said that it yet remains to be seen what God can do with one man who is wholly surrendered to the will of God. It is said that D. L. Moody heard that or read it somewhere, and as a Boston shoe clerk, without any education to speak of at all, he looked up to God and said, "O God! I want to be that man!"

When he was preaching in London (as the story is told) a very highly-educated woman came to Mr. Moody to criticize him for his poor English. She said Mr. Moody, "I never heard anybody butcher the English language much worse!" Moody looked at that woman and said, "I know it, but I can tell you this: I'm using all the English I know to the glory of Christ." Then he asked, "Are you doing the same?" Listen friend, it doesn't take a lot for God to do mighty things with, if God owns it.

I remember that the Word of God came to Gideon in one of the darkest hours of Israel's history, saying, "Go in this thy might, and thou shalt save Israel."

Gideon said, "Oh my Lord, wherewith shall I save Israel? behold, my family is poor in Manasseh, and I am the least in my father's house."

Then the Lord said, 'Go, Gideon, and I will go with you.' And then a verse back in the sixth chapter of Judges reads, 'And the Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon.' The King James Version says, 'The Spirit of the Lord came upon Gideon.' That is the literal translation of it. Some scholars say that the Spirit of the Lord clothed Himself with Gideon, put him on just as you would put on a coat. And the Spirit of the Lord, having clothed Himself in Gideon, took three hundred men with pitchers, and a light in each pitcher. That night they surrounded the camp of Midian. The pitchers were broken, and they shouted, 'The sword of the Lord, and of Gideon.' A hundred and thirty-two thousand soldiers were put to consternation and utter riot that night, and Israel was delivered from the bondage of the Philistines.

Shamgar was hiding in a cave in another dark hour of Israel's history. The men of Israel were overrun by the enemy. Their possessions had been plundered and many had been killed. They had nothing left. To keep enough to eat they had to steal their own grain and hide it in caves to thresh it off. In the cave the Spirit of the Lord spoke to Shamgar: 'What is that in thine hand, Shamgar?'

'Why, that is just an ox goad.'

'The Philistines are coming; take the ox goad and go to meet them. In the hand of Shamgar it was just an ox goad, something to prod a lazy oxen along or guide him and keep him in the furrow or an instrument to thresh out wheat. But in the hand of Almighty God it was the power of God to deliver Israel from her enemies. When the battle was over hundreds of the Philistines lay dead on the Judean hills and Israel was delivered.

'Samson do you see the Philis-

tines coming over the hill yonder?'

'Yes.'

'Well, what is that lying there by the roadside?'

'Just the jawbone of an ass, bleaching here by the roadside.'

'Pick it up and go meet them!'

Just the jawbone of an ass bleaching by the roadside—but in the hands of God and with the power of God behind it, it was the instrument of God to deliver His people and leave a thousand of the Philistines lying dead on the hillside before the sun went down.

Jesus taught the hungry multitude under the shadow of a mountain on the shore of Galilee. They were gathered around. Evening had come. The people had been there a long time and they were hungry and fainting from weakness. Jesus said, 'Don't you know any way to feed them?'

The disciples said, 'Why, two hundred pennyworth of bread wouldn't even be a bite for all of them.'

Jesus said, 'What do you have around here to eat?' I believe the little boy was standing around there and heard Jesus. He must have rushed up to Andrew and said, 'Here is my lunch.'

I used to think those loaves of bread were like the only ones I had ever seen—those loaves that weigh a pound or more and that make a lot of bread when they are sliced up. Actually, he had five little thin barley-flour biscuits and two small sardines.

I think he was probably going fishing that day and his mother wrapped up a little lunch to keep him from getting hungry. And he got so interested in what Jesus was preaching that he forgot all about his lunch until Jesus needed it. He rushed up and offered it to Andrew, and Andrew took it to Jesus.

In the hands of a little boy that lunch was just enough to keep him from getting hungry while he fished awhile. But in the hands of Jesus, when it was blessed by Him and multiplied by His mighty power, it fed five thousand hungry mouths. And twelve baskets full of fragments were taken up afterwards.

Oh, let us today see the significance of it. We may feel small in His sight. But remember, Paul said, "For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble are called: But God hath chosen the foolish things of the world to confound the wise; and God hath chosen the weak things of the world to confound the things which are mighty; And base things of the world, and things which are despised, hath God chosen. yea, and things which are not, to bring to nought things that are: That no flesh should glory in his presence" (I. Cor. 1:26-29). It does not take much for God to do a mighty work if God owns the instrument.

### 3. The Tragedy of Souls Going to Hell Demands All I Am and Have

Then the next reason why I should sell out to Jesus is simply this: a world is lost and going to Hell. It would stagger you and me if we could realize how many people have dropped into Hell from this planet while we have had this conference in progress. I believe with all my heart that this is a lost world and that every person in it who does not know the Lord Jesus Christ is on the way to Hell!

Somebody said to me, "Do you believe in a Hell of literal fire?"

I said, "Yes, I do because the Bible teaches it." But it does not make any material difference to me—and I do not see how it could make any difference to anybody else—whether there is fire in Hell or not. If it is just as bad as fire, then it might as well be fire.

Certainly the Lord would not use anything that would mislead people about any truth of God; and the Lord Jesus painted the blackest picture, the most heart-breaking picture, the most tragic picture that has ever been painted when He told us in His own words about that place to which

men must go who are not born again, washed in the blood of Jesus Christ.

He told us plainly that the whole world lieth in the Evil One. The law was given "That every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God" (Rom. 3:19). The world is lost, and if I fail to give my best to Christ, if I fail to do my best to rescue lost souls, somebody is going to Hell because I fail. God says, "His blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezek. 3:20). I do not know what you think about it, but that verse of Scripture has haunted me all the days of my ministry: "His blood will I require at thine hand."

Somebody may say, "Well, that is in the Old Testament." Certainly it is, but if you will turn to the twentieth chapter of Acts where we read about Paul's calling together at Miletus the elders of the church at Ephesus to give them his farewell message, you will see that he tells them how he has witnessed from house to house in tears and kept back nothing that was profitable unto them, testifying both to the Jews and the Greeks repentance toward God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. The apostle to the Gentiles is speaking: 'I have labored in Ephesus and have been true to the Word of God in such a way that if the Ephesians go to Hell their blood will not be on my hands.'

Sometimes I say, "Lord, what will it mean if I stand waiting before Jesus and the books are opened and the records show that somebody's blood, some lost soul's blood is on my hands. I do not know what it will mean but I know that the Lord meant something most serious when He warned us of that possibility and charged us as Paul charged young Timothy: 'I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ...'" (II Tim. 4:1). You will have to stand and be judged when He, the Saviour, comes to set up His kingdom, "at his appearing and his kingdom." I must stand before Him and give an account. I am persuaded that many of the things that seem majors to us here will be minors then. Many of the things that seem so important to us and so vital here will seem mighty trivial then. Oh, let us lay our all the altar for Jesus, remembering that souls are at stake; that souls are in the balance; that souls are going to Hell; that their blood is going to be on our hands if we fail; that one day we are going to stand before the Judge of all the earth and give an account for our stewardship.

### 4. Less Than My Best Now Will Bring Me to Face Jesus Christ With Utter Shame

Then the last thought is this: when I give that account, when I do stand before Him, oh, how I pray God that somehow I shall have so labored, that I shall have so given myself to Him, that I shall have so served and yielded to His will and spent myself for Him that when I meet Him yonder and walk into His presence I shall not be ashamed.

Listen to these verses: I John 2:28: "And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming." Can you imagine a blood-washed child of God on the most glorious occasion this world will ever see, when the blessed hope of all the saints of the ages is realized in the coming of the Lord, standing ashamed before Him at His coming? O God, I do not want to hang my head in shame in that hour!

Then again, above everything else I want to hear when I meet my Lord there, when I give an account of my stewardship, when I bring the few sheaves that I have been able to gather and lay them down at His feet—oh, I know I cannot reach very far, my life can touch but a little segment of humanity, my arms are mighty short and cannot hold a lot of sheaves—but I pray God every day that when I come to meet Jesus they will be so full they cannot hold any more and that as I come into His presence to lay them at His feet I will

## Should We Preach on Hell?

(Continued from Page 1)

"positive" and "negative" have been perverted by the modernists and worldlings, as they pervert other essential terms. It may sound very well for some compromiser, some men-pleaser, some smooth-tongued and pink tea preacher to say that his is "a positive message" when he leaves out every element of condemnation of sin, every warning of judgment, every call to repentance. But that is no honest description of his message. The only genuinely positive preachers are those who boldly and honestly declare the whole counsel of God.

But here I give our brother's letter:

"Dear Brother Rice,

"I am struck by the contrast between the preaching recorded in the book of the Acts and much of the evangelistic preaching of today. The doctrine of Hell was almost entirely omitted then in contrast to what might be called a predominant emphasis upon it today, by many evangelists. I am not suggesting a doubt that there is a place for the doctrine of Hell but how large a place? Those who had such close contact with Jesus seem to have given it a very minor place.

"I suppose it takes greater skill to frame a message that is positive than one that is negative. Greater

hear Him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant."

You remember that the Apostle Paul was going down to Jerusalem. Agabus took his girdle and bound his hands and prophesied that bonds and afflictions awaited the man who owned the girdle. Paul said, 'I do not know what awaits me at Jerusalem. I only know that everywhere I go the Holy Spirit witnesses that bonds and afflictions await me. But none of these things move me. There is just one thing I want: that I may finish my task, that I may finish my course with joy, that I may finish this job that God has committed to me, this job of preaching the gospel.'

One day in a Roman dungeon he was writing a letter. Listen to the words of it: 'I am even now ready to be offered. The time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course.' [That is what I have been praying for all these years: that I could look back and say, "I've finished the job God gave me to do. I've fought a good fight for the Lord."] Oh, can't you see that old soldier of the cross, thin and feeble and stooped with the years now. Oh, how he has suffered! He says, 'I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus. I fought with the wild beasts at Ephesus. I have been in perils of robbers, perils of my countrymen, perils on the desert, perils in the mountains and perils on the sea. But none of these things move me. I have finished my course!' And see the new light in those old dim eyes as he looks across the river and says, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing."

Peter said, 'Ye shall have an abundant entrance.' Jesus said to those who had been good and faithful servants, "Thou hast been faithful over a few things... enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (Matt. 25:21). And I think those who can hear that will be satisfied. I think they will say that it was worth ten thousand times the price they had to pay. Oh, young people on whom God has laid His hand, whom the Lord Jesus has saved, who have been redeemed by the price of Calvary and washed in His blood, say to Jesus today:

Have Thine own way, Lord!  
Have Thine own way!  
Thou art the Potter;  
I am the clay.  
Mould me and make me  
After Thy will,  
While I am waiting,  
Yielded and still.

skill to exalt Christ than to present Hell.

"The most successful and effective evangelist I have ever had the privilege of hearing consistently avoided negative preaching. He exalted Christ. His message was Good News with a strong note of joy. . . . that my joy might remain in you and that your joy might be full."

Very truly yours,"

I do not know what "most successful and effective evangelist" our brother refers to who "consistently avoided negative preaching. He exalted Christ." Billy Sunday was effective and he exalted Christ, but he preached hard against sin. He preached on Hell. Moody, Torrey, Chapman, Bob Jones, Bulglin, Sam Jones, Sam Small, Scarborough, Major Penn, Ham, all exalted Christ but none of them trimmed their messages to leave out the hard part. All demanded repentance. All preached against sin. When Gipsy Smith was in his prime, some of his preaching against sin was terrible, and I remember his sermon in Kansas City on "Washing Their Stripes." How boldly he demanded restitution and repentance for sin! When the dear Gipsy was old and worn out, naturally much of the fire in condemning sin and warning the sinner was gone. But then his largest and most effective campaigns were done. The truth is that everywhere, in all ages, the most successful and effective evangelistic preaching has been true to the Bible in preaching repentance from sin and warning of Hell and judgment.

### Jesus Preached Much on Hell Dear Brother:

I thank you for your letter, but I am astonished at the carelessness of your conclusions. In this matter you certainly are quoting some enemies of the gospel; if you had made any Scriptural study on the matter at all you would have never said anything like this. Jesus Himself had more to say about Hell than any modern evangelist does. In fact, the evidence indicates that every time Jesus preached, He brought in the

(Continued on Page 5)

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# Should We Preach on Hell?

Continued from Page 4)

matter of Hell. Please check for yourself the ministry of John the Baptist (Matt. 3:10, 12) and then through the book of Matthew see all these places where Jesus preached about Hell:

Matthew 5:22  
Matthew 5:29, 30  
Matthew 7:14, 23  
Matthew 10:28  
Matthew 13:40-42  
Matthew 13:49, 50  
Matthew 18: 8, 9  
Matthew 22:13  
Matthew 23:33  
Matthew 25:41, 46.

I have run hastily through the book of Matthew. Everyone of these passages speaks of Hell, Hell fire, outer darkness, everlasting fire, a furnace of fire, or destruction, etc. and everyone of them means Hell and could mean nothing less. To say that Jesus did very little preaching about Hell would be utterly untrue. In fact, He preached about Hell all the time. And I have not mentioned His teaching in the book of Luke and Mark and John, which contain other teachings of Jesus about Hell.

## Easy Preaching!

I am sorry to see you using the wholly unscriptural term "negative preaching," invented by modernists and used so much by the enemies of the gospel. It does not give a good impression about where you got your schooling and the kind of books you read and the kind of men you run with. How strange that any minister of the gospel should ever adopt and advocate and write a concept so utterly foreign to the Scriptures and so contrary to Bible preachers.

Your slurring remark that it is harder to preach a "positive gospel" and your inference that lack of scholarship or laziness is the reason that good evangelists preach against Hell is as un-scholarly as it is unkind. That remark does not show discernment. I suggest that you check up on some great preaching. Read Spurgeon's sermons for awhile and then say that you think Spurgeon took the easy way out without study and preparation! He often referred to Hell, as you must know. Read the sermons of Dr. R. A. Torrey, with his education in Yale and German universities, recognized as one of the greatest Bible scholars America has had, and you will see that his sermons are no sloppy, ill-prepared work. They live still. My own poor sermons are sorry enough, God knows, but you could not believe that the enormous amount of writing I have done is devoid of scholarship and labor.

I know the evangelists of the present and I have made diligent study of all the great evangelists. They succeeded in proportion as they preached the whole counsel of God. The "thou shalt not's" of the Bible, as well as the "thou shalt's." They preached, "He that believeth on him is not condemned," and they finished the sentence, "but he that believeth not is condemned already." They preached Heaven and Hell. It is silly to divide up the plain word of God and say the 'positive' ye shall preach and the 'negative' ye shall not preach. And no one has made a careful study of the matter who says that the one-sided man-preaching preaching that ignores sin and Hell and judgment gets better results than the full orbed preaching of the whole truth, if he means evangelical results of souls saved and Christians revived.

## Bible Preachers Condemned Sin, Preached Judgment

You need to prayerfully study again the book of Acts to see that these Bible preachers followed Jesus in their teaching against sin, what you and the modernists call "negative preaching."

In Acts 1:16-23 Peter preached on the doom of Judas who "by transgression fell, that he might go to his own place." In Acts 3:12-26 Peter preached to the crowd that they had killed Jesus, that they desired a murderer to be granted to them, and that they must repent. That is the way all good evangelists preach.

In Acts 4:10 Peter, addressing

the Sanhedrin, accuses them of crucifying Jesus, and in verse 11 he applies the Scripture to them as builders who had set at nought the great stone. In the fifth chapter of Acts there is sharp preaching and public condemnation, resulting in the death of Ananias and Sapphira. The Sanhedrin summarizes the preaching and teaching of these apostles in Acts 5:28, "And, behold, ye have filled Jerusalem with your doctrine, and intend to bring this man's blood upon us." In verse 30 he again accused them of killing Jesus. In verse 31 he preached repentance and offended them so that they were cut to the heart and planned to kill the preachers and did beat them. In chapter 6 Stephen was so strong in preaching judgment that his enemies quoted him as saying that he was preaching that Jesus would destroy Jerusalem. In Acts 7:51-53 Stephen preached, "Ye stiffnecked and uncircumcised in heart and ears, ye do always resist the Holy Ghost: as your fathers did, so do ye. Which of the prophets have not your fathers persecuted? and they have slain them which shewed before of the coming of the Just One; of whom ye have been now the betrayers and murderers: Who have received the law by the disposition of angels, and have not kept it." That was what you call "negative" preaching.

In the eighth chapter of Acts Philip in Samaria cast out devils and preached against the sorcery of Simon until he was converted, then rebuked him for trying to buy the power to give the Holy Spirit, saying, "Repent therefore of this thy wickedness, and pray God, if perhaps the thought of thine heart may be forgiven thee. For I perceive that thou art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." Note the terrifying preaching of Saul in Acts 13:10, "O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord?" And God backed up the kind of preaching you do not like, and struck Elymas the sorcerer blind.

In the same chapter Paul warned those in the synagogue at Antioch in Pisidia, "Beware therefore, lest that come upon you, which is spoken of in the prophets; Behold, ye despisers, and wonder, and perish: for I work a work in your days, a work which ye shall in no wise believe, though a man declare it unto you." Later Paul rebuked the unbelievers with power in verse 46. His preaching was so strong against these people who were unworthy of everlasting life that they stirred up a riot. It was not 'negative preaching' that cast out the devil from the slave girl in Acts 16 and landed Paul and Silas in jail. It was not 'negative preaching' that caused the riot in Acts 17 at Thessalonica.

Of course the book of Acts does not give any full sermons but if we want to know the kind of preaching that Peter and Paul, (the two principal preachers discussed in the book of Acts) actually preached, we have only to read the epistles of Paul and of Peter. We may be sure that Peter often preached in his spoken ministry just like he preached in the second and third chapters of II Peter. He often warned these men, "Who shall give account to him that is ready to judge the quick and the dead" (I Pet. 4:5). And, "if the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and sinner appear?" (I Pet. 4:19). And Paul often preached, no doubt, like he wrote in I Corinthians and II Corinthians, against drunkenness, adultery and divisions and like he wrote in Ephesians against stealing and lying. Doubtless he warned often, as in I Corinthians 6:9, 10, that the adulterer and fornicator and murderer and covetous could not inherit the kingdom of God.

## Men of God Should be Faithful, Give All God's Message

It is much easier to preach and never hurt anybody's feelings, never make anybody angry. It is much easier to avoid all responsibility on the sin question,

(Continued from Page 1)

they were saved as the result of the program. Many others were reclaimed. Brother Rolfe is a great radio preacher. We thank God that we became acquainted with him through THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

"Our Daily program goes out over seven radio stations, giving a complete coverage of both North and South Carolina and parts of four other states. The 'Bright Spot Hour' goes out daily over the following stations—

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WDSC, Dillon, S. C., Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a. m., 800 kc, 1,000 watts.

WGTM, Wilson, N. C., Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a. m., 590 kc, 5000 watts.

WHPE, High Point, N. C., Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a. m. 1070 kc, 1,000 watts.

WHPE-FM, High Point, N. C., Monday through Saturday, 10:30 a. m., 95 mc.

"We commend Evangelist Rolfe Barnard to any church or to any radio preacher who may feel led to have a radio revival. Praising God for the blessing I receive through the Sword, I remain, Yours in His Service, (Signed) "Harold B. Sightler."

## Evangelist Eddie Wagner Has 60 Decisions in Burbank, California; 80 in Flint, Michigan

We have rejoiced greatly in the ministry of our Brother Eddie Wagner of 1705 Iris Avenue, Little Rock, Arkansas. Brother Wagner is a fervent and earnest preacher, very Scriptural and definite in his preaching, filled with the Spirit. Reports from pastors about his meetings are uniformly full of thanksgiving to God for the ministry of this beloved young brother.

From the Valley Baptist Church, Burbank, California, Rev. John DeSaegher, the pastor writes: "From May 9th through May 16th

on preaching of Hell and judgment. It is much easier never to demand that people repent. It is much easier to preach peace, peace, when there is no peace. It is much easier for a preacher to be a dumb dog that does not bark, as God's Word says some are. And all the people who ever decided not to preach against sin, not to preach Hell and judgment, decided it not on the basis of the Bible, but by taking counsel of their fears, by trying to please the ungodly, by selling out some of their convictions. To trim out the part of the Scriptures that offend people is the easy way to preach, but it is disloyalty to Christ, it is a violation of holy vows, and it emasculates the gospel and loses the power of God.

I have written you in detail, dear brother, because, of my deep concern for your ministry and because the heresy you advocate, that is, that we should leave out any part of the Bible that is offensive to the carnal man, is so dangerous. Must we please men or God? We ought to be able as Paul said he did at Ephesus, to declare the whole counsel of God. That means Hell as well as Heaven. That means repentance as well as faith. That means preaching against sin as well as preaching for righteousness. That means preaching "God is love," and also preaching, "Our God is a consuming fire." That means preaching "he that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," and also the last of the sentence, "but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:16). Honest preachers must preach the whole counsel of God.

Again let me thank you for your letter. I shall be glad to hear from you at any time.

In Jesus' name, yours,

John R. Rice

# With the Evangelists

Evangelist Eddie Wagner held meetings in my church.

"This entire week was filled with the blessing of God and I rejoice in being able to report there were (60) sixty decisions for Christ.

"Evangelist Wagner's messages are Bible-centered, soul-stirring and heart-challenging.

"His preaching appeals to both young and old and his sincerity reflects the God-given burden that he has to proclaim the unsearchable riches of Christ to needy hearts.

"I can highly recommend him, knowing that through his ministry of the Word, souls will be saved, Christians will be edified, and backsliders will be restored.

"Yours and His, because of Calvary, (Signed) "John DeSaegher."

From Brother Ewing Walters, pastor of the South Baptist Church at Flint, Michigan, also comes a very fine commendation of Brother Wagner. In a letter of August 25 he says: "Dear Brethren:

"Will you please publish the following news item in the next issue of THE SWORD OF THE LORD.

"Evangelist Eddie Wagner, assisted by Song Leader Dick Messner, recently conducted a series of evangelistic services in the South Baptist Church of Flint, Michigan. These meetings which lasted for two weeks were, according to a report from the church, the most successful they have ever held. Eighty souls were saved besides a large uncounted number who returned to fellowship with or dedicated their lives to the Lord. Since the close of the meetings the pastor, the Rev. Ewing Walters, has been busy baptizing and receiving new members into the fellowship of the church. Both Pastor Walters and the South Baptist Church recommend Evangelist Wagner to any Church that has a passion to see the lost led to Christ.

"Sincerely, (Signed) "Ewing Walters." We were glad to have these words directly from the pastors. Brother Wagner himself writes about other meetings.

"Then I was a week at the Union Rescue Mission in Memphis, Tennessee, where Jimmy Stroud is doing such a fine work for the Lord. We had twelve souls come to the Lord while I was there.

"Then followed a week in the Brazil Baptist Church in Brazil, Mississippi, where the Lord again blessed His precious Word. The community does not have a church building, and everybody meets in the school auditorium. But the Lord blessed our efforts there, and there were thirty-five saved, a few rededications, and three who moved their letters. The pastor was new in the ministry and had never baptized anyone, and his heart was thrilled to see the people coming to the Lord, and then be baptizing them.

"I am in a revival here in Little Rock now, at the Riverside Baptist Church, Rev. William Travis, pastor, and would appreciate your prayers in our behalf.

"Yours for souls, (Signed) "Eddie Wagner (Gal. 2:20)."

## Pastor in Wilson, Oklahoma, Writes of Glorious Revival Led by Evangelist Millard Box

Some time ago THE SWORD OF THE LORD announced that Rev. Millard Box was entering the work as a full-time evangelist. We have been deeply impressed with the fervor, with the consecrated good sense, the vision of this young evangelist. He had great usefulness in the pastorate, and with a radio broadcast. Now we have a lovely letter from Pastor J. P. Dane of the First Baptist Church, Wilson, Oklahoma, about Brother Box's work. Brother Dane writes:

"Dear Dr. Rice,

"We have just completed a glorious two weeks revival campaign at the First Baptist Church, Wilson, Oklahoma, with Rev. Millard Box, of Neosho, Missouri,

as the evangelist. Brother Box has proved himself a capable evangelist and a preacher of great spiritual power.

"The meeting resulted in many decisions of various kinds. There were twenty-five conversions, fifteen backsliders reclaimed (not just rededications but reclamations), over a hundred rededications and ten other additions by letter and statement. The most significant thing about the meeting, however, was not the number of additions, but the soul-stirring effect on the church of the evangelist's sermons. He denounced sin with holy fervor, and the effect in changing the lives of our people was marvelous. Worldliness and unconcern had crept into our church, and the revival was like a refiner's fire in purifying the membership, restoring lost joy, and a spirit of harmony and sweet fellowship in the church. More was done to change the character of the whole church than could have been done in years of faithful preaching. On the closing Sunday of the meeting nearly the whole congregation came forward dedicating their homes to God and pledging to establish the family altar. The crowds attending the revival were the largest the church had had in many years, and on the closing Sunday of the meeting we broke the Sunday School attendance record, the past record having been set when our town was twice the size that it is now.

"One feature of the revival was the large number of young people who attended and became genuinely concerned about the meeting and the lost. Each evening at 7:30 they would meet in a separate prayer group and many who had never really prayed in their lives learned what it was to agonize for souls. During the last week of the revival there was a continuous chain of prayer, twenty-four hours a day. The final service of the revival was attended by an overflow crowd, something the church had not seen in years.

"On the last Saturday night of the meeting, a big 270-pound man walked down the aisles and said, 'I want you to pray for me.' He confessed that he had been an awful drunkard, and would have a hard time breaking from his drink habit. We prayed with him and led him to trust Christ, and then he wanted us to stay and have special prayer with him that he might have the strength to live for Christ. The next afternoon he came for the baptismal service. He called Brother Box (Continued on Page 6)

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## Last Call!

(Continued from Page 1)

Sinners who intend to be saved neglect their salvation and die and go to Hell. Parents who intend to win their children neglect their opportunities until their children are grown and gone. Nearly every Christian intends to do many things to help get out the gospel but neglects and the gift is never given, the personal effort to win a soul is never made. Then let us be faithful this time and take advantage of this offer for the glory of Christ. Send your subscriptions at once!

2. Consider that this is the easiest and least expensive way to get the gospel of Christ effectively spread. To have over one hundred full-length sermons by the greatest soul winners sent to one home, postpaid, in the course of 8 months, in an attractive newspaper style, all for \$1.00, is easy, economical and effective. The same sermons sent in book form would cost fifteen times as much and would not be as likely to be read! Subscribe for unsaved people, backsliders, new converts whom you want to help.

3. Consider that a subscription to THE SWORD OF THE LORD is the easiest way to influence and help ministers of the gospel. Last week Dr. Billy Graham, at the Medicine Lake Conference of the Northwestern Schools, stood and said that he had been reading THE SWORD OF THE LORD since immediately after his conversion, that it had a profound affect upon his ministry. The president of one of the largest seminaries in the world told me that he had used the sermon outlines and illustrations from THE SWORD OF THE LORD frequently in his preaching. The pastor of the largest church in a city of sixty thousand told me last night that he had often used the material in messages in THE SWORD OF THE LORD. Literally thousands of preachers have written that THE SWORD OF THE LORD has established them in doctrine, has influenced their personal soul winning, their prayer life and their preaching. Think of wielding a formative influence for good over some godly minister for eight full months by sending \$1.00 so that he may get THE SWORD OF THE LORD for that time! Send subscriptions for preachers before the deadline!

4. Where can you support a work more unselfishly and directly to the work of getting out the gospel? The editor has personally given \$314 for subscriptions in this campaign. The workers in the Sword of the Lord office, not counting the subscriptions the editor pays for, are trying to give five hundred subscriptions at \$1.00 each. And we hope they will exceed that. Remember the editor gets no salary as editor, and not a penny from THE SWORD OF THE LORD in any form. If ever a soul winner came with clean hands to ask others to help him win souls, that time is now. This work is so unselfish, it gets such tremendous results for God, and the way to help is so easy that every reader who is saved and loves Jesus Christ ought to send THE SWORD to others. And if you are to help in this subscription campaign you must DO IT NOW!

### Just Compare It!

We are giving absolutely free with \$3.00 worth of subscriptions our lovely gift edition of the editor's latest book, God's Cure for Anxious Care. You won't believe how beautifully printed and bound is this book until you see it. Only by printing 10,000 copies in the first printing are we able to give it free with \$3.00 worth of subscriptions. The expensive art work, done by the Christian artist, Mr. U. S. Abell, on this book makes it a charming gift. The pastoral scene of birds, trees and flowers on the jacket; colored pictures inside the covers will make this book a lasting beauty. It is done in dove-gray cloth, with the cover printed with rose-colored ink, including the author's signature. The page type form is attractive and easy to read. Here are the nine chapters of this book of

comfort for Christians:

1. God's Cure for Anxious Care
2. Never Alone; Never Forsaken
3. Water for the Thirsty
4. "Power to the Faint"
5. A Widow, a Pot of Oil and God
6. "I Thirst"
7. Affectionate Christians
8. "Sir, We Would See Jesus"
9. "I Will Love Thee, O Lord, My Strength"

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BIBLE FACTS ABOUT HEAVEN by Editor John R. Rice. 60

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Remember, the closing date for this special offer is Wednesday, September 15. Get your letters with subscriptions mailed by midnight of that date! Subscriptions may be either new or renewal but mark renewal subscriptions "renewal." Canadian and foreign subscriptions will be enrolled for 6 months for \$1.00 instead of 8 months. Give names and addresses carefully. All pray for the subscription campaign and particularly for those to whom you send subscriptions.

Send all letters and subscriptions to Sword of the Lord Publishers, 214 W. Wesley Street, Wheaton, Illinois. And may God let all of us rejoice over a wonderful victory when the last subscription is in!

## With the Evangelists

(Continued from Page 5)

aside and pulled a pint of whisky out of his pocket. (This is a dry state, theoretically.) He said, 'Brother Box, I bought this yesterday and when I came to the services last night I had plans to go out on a wild party today. I have no use for this stuff now. I am going to give it to you, you can do what you want to with it.' Hallelujah what a Saviour! Brother Box that night placed the bottle of whiskey on the pulpit and told the story the man had told him. It had tremendous effect and convinced the people more than ever that God is big enough to save any sinner.

"I recommend Brother Box highly as an experienced evangelist and a real man of God. The blessings of our meeting will never cease.

"Sincerely,  
(Signed) "J. P. Dane, Pastor."

### Evangelist Kenneth A. Chapman Is Commended by Pastors With Whom He Had a Union Tent Campaign

We are happy to hear of the second successful tent campaign at Coalchester, Illinois, in which our brother, Kenneth A. Chapman, did the preaching. Rev. Ernest Louderman, pastor of the First Christian Church, writes as follows:

"I count it a real privilege to recommend Brother Kenneth Chapman to anyone desiring a revival of the work in

their church. We of the four churches of our town have had our brother with us for such a meeting the past two years and are pleased with the success of these meetings.

"I find Brother Chapman very wise in his preaching in a union service inasmuch that he treats the controversial subjects with much caution but still in no way compromising. I find Brother Chapman very zealous about soul winning and the best personal worker I have ever worked with. He saturates his messages with the Word of God and puts his whole soul into his preaching. He is very fearless concerning his preaching against sin. I find his character above reproach and him to be a very humble servant of God.

"As to the finances of the meeting, he feels that to be a very secondary thing, standing on the promise of the Word where it is said, 'But my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.' Brother Chapman has two chief interests when he comes into your community or church, first, that the unsaved be converted and, second, that when he leaves, your church will be stronger in the faith. We have found that to be the results we have experienced after he is gone. I will heartily recommend him to

(Continued on Page 7)



## "When Skeletons Come Out of their Closets"....

Unusual for a sermon title? Perhaps—but this one sermon alone has been used of the Lord to bring hundreds to Christ in the great union revival campaigns of Dr. John R. Rice. The rest of the title—

WHEN CHICKENS COME HOME TO ROOST: WHEN GOD'S RECORD BOOKS ARE OPENED and SINNERS RECEIVE THEIR WAGES: WHEN THE DOOMED AND DAMNED ARE DRAGGED OUT OF HELL TO FACE CHRIST ON THE THRONE: WHEN EVERY KNEE SHALL BOW AND EVERY TONGUE SHALL CONFESS TO GOD AT THE LAST JUDGMENT OF THE UNSAVED DEAD!

—gives you a thumb-nail sketch of what the sermon is about. It is dramatic, moving, attention-holding and action compelling! And it is typical of the power, the beauty, and the spell-binding fascination of all the sermons in this book.

### The Reviewers Say:

Leading Christians and Christian publications have reviewed this book with glowing praise. Read these reports on the book:

"All of these interesting messages are full of truth, needed truth, and truth needed now. Some awful facts are to be faced in this book, but they are needed facts. The author portrays conditions as they are and destiny as it shall be. This book is for this age and should be in every home. It will be a blessing."

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"Eleven sermons of the fiery, evangelistic type, so characteristic of Dr. Rice's ministry, are contained in this new book. Simple in language and style, abundant in striking illustrations, these sermons are unusually heart-searching in their dealing with many of life's problems. You will be blessed in reading them; and then you will want to pass on the book to your unsaved friends."

The Pilot

"The minister who preached these sermons was terribly in earnest when he delivered them, and this quality runs throughout the printed volume. The illustrative features are particularly good, and the stories used by the evangelist to drive home his teaching are persuasive and were no doubt effective."

The Standard

Just as they would be used in an evangelistic campaign, there are some sermons to revive Christians, to prepare them for revival and soul-winning and prevailing prayer; some sermons are specially for warning, arousing and convicting lost sinners; others are tender appeals and clear presentations of the gospel. If you long for a renewal of the blessing of a revival, you will want to read these sermons. If you have loved ones who ought to hear the piercing, burning gospel, then see that they read this book.

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## ANSWERS TO BIBLE QUESTIONS

1. Why Does an All-Powerful God Sometimes Let Innocent Children Starve?
2. How Could Christians in Heaven Be Happy if They Have Loved Ones in Hell?
3. If Christians Honestly Believe in Heaven, Why Do They Get the Doctor When They Are Sick?

By the Editor

Here are answers to an earnest inquiry of a lady in Boston who writes the editor.

Dear Miss O—:

It was nice of you to write me recently and I ask your forbearance for the unavoidable delay in answering your letter. I will try to help you find the key of which you can unlock your own problems on spiritual matters.

1. You said, "I am told God is all-powerful; yet thousands of innocent children are allowed to starve. Why?"

Surely a little thought or a little reading of the Word of God would have brought to your mind that God made man as creatures of choice and will. We are not animals. We are not machines or robots. God gave men the right to our choice, but that necessarily involves rewards for seeking His face and pleasing Him, and punishment for our sins. To blame God for the disasters that men bring upon themselves and upon their children is silly.

Would you have it so that a man should never have any joy in his own children? Would you have it so that a man would never suffer because his sins brought suffering to his children? If so, then you would take away all the joy and responsibility of parenthood. So a leader must be responsible for his followers. So a government must be responsible for its citizens. That is absolutely necessary for human virtue and human responsibility and human happiness.

It is obvious that God has plenty of provision in nature for the welfare and happiness of mankind. It is only by our sins that we bring trouble upon ourselves and upon others around us. Yet I give my earnest testimony that I know by many years' experience that God provides for and protects the children of those who love Him and trust Him and serve Him.

Only by an honest facing of the sin question, and by realizing that sin must be punished and that a holy God must bring sin to judgment can you understand the problems of evil in this world.

2. You asked how your mother could be happy in Heaven if you "should mayhap land in that Hell of which you write so glibly," you say. In the first place, every honest preacher who believes the Bible and is acquainted with what Jesus Christ said on the matter can write or talk glibly about Hell. The Lord Jesus Christ Himself was so explicit on this matter, warning people of it again and again, that every one who is a Christian, that is, every one who trusts in Jesus Christ and claims Him as Saviour, should certainly be clear in his thoughts and statements about it. I do not claim to be original and I do not boast of unusual intelligence. I simply say that I know what Jesus said on the question, and since I am a Christian I believe it and warn people about it. If there was a sneer in your letter on this matter it was not a sneer at me but at Jesus Christ and His Word. No one is a Christian who does not accept the authority of Jesus Christ. If Jesus was wrong about Hell, then He was only an ordinary man and not the Son of God as He claimed to be. Those who are genuinely Christians must necessarily accept what Jesus said.

In the second place, your attitude toward the Bible and God does not indicate that your mother reared you as a Christian mother ought to rear her children. I do not doubt that she was a good woman. If she trusted in Christ as her own Saviour, she was a Christian. But if she did not win you to know and love Christ and did not teach you to believe the Bible and to follow it, and if she did not determinedly set your feet on the pathway of a Christian

life while you were young, then I assure you that now, even in Heaven, she grieves about her failure, and if you go to Hell she will be sorry of it. But I assure you of this; that all of us who get to Heaven are going to be well pleased with what Jesus Christ does, and if you will not trust Him and take Him as your own Saviour and so go to Hell, then your mother will know that Jesus did right, and she will be reconciled to that fact. Some people on earth may love their children better than they love God, but not in Heaven.

If you are further interested in this matter of Christians in Heaven knowing what we do and being deeply interested about us, you might like my pamphlet on *Bible Facts About Heaven*, (Eight chapters, 50c), and my book, *clothing-bound, "... and God Remembered*, which has one chapter, a devotional Bible sermon, on "Tears in Heaven," showing that Christians in Heaven have their joy tempered by sadness because of their sins and failures on earth. Opinions would not matter, but the Bible has a clear teaching on the subject.

3. You cannot understand why Christians do not all want to die. But I can think of many reasons, and some of them are good ones. First, every Christian has responsibilities here that are important. Three of my daughters have not yet finished their education. One is only ten years old. The support and care of my family is properly dear to me. Unless I had clear assurance from God that it was His time for me to leave them, it would not be the part of Christian duty to wish to leave them uncared for. When it is clearly God's will for me to go, then I can trust Him to do what He no longer asks me to do. Likewise, I have important and heavy duties in the Lord's work. If my preaching was ever important, it is important now. Thousands of people write me letters, as you have done. Other thousands read *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* and read my books and pamphlets. In my revival campaigns many, many thousands of people have turned to Christ and found peace and forgiveness. Drunkards have been made sober. Convicts have been made law-abiding citizens. Harlots have been made pure. Infidels have been made into believers. Any sensible man would not want to leave this ministry without clear assurance from God that it was His time.

Then again, the teaching of the Bible everywhere is that one ought to care for the body. The Bible clearly teaches, "Is any afflicted? let him pray. Is any merry? let him sing psalms. Is any sick among you? let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him... And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up" (James 5:13-15). It is clearly the Lord's will that none of us should lightly lay down our lives.

Then it is only fair to say also that Christians are human beings and that self-preservation is instinctive. It is not strange if some Christians are in sudden emergencies afraid to die. I know children who love their daddies devotedly and believe in them implicitly, yet who tremble to jump off of something high into the fathers' arms. God put certain protective instincts into the human character. But when a good Christian comes down to the point of death, I can say to you, as one who has sat by many a deathbed, that such earnest Christians almost always have sweet peace. Worldly and half-hearted Christians are not always resigned to go.

I hope you will set out to read

(Continued from Page 6)

any pastor wanting a revival." Rev. Arthur P. Hallborn, pastor of The First Baptist Church in Coalchester, Illinois, says:

"Evangelist Kenneth Chapman has been with us here at Coalchester, Illinois, in two union tent campaigns. He was with us last summer and again this summer. God has given our brother great wisdom as an evangelist. His preaching is convincing, uncompromising, true to the Bible, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

"Brother Chapman does not spare himself in any way. He puts his whole heart and soul into his preaching and also keeps busy during the day doing personal work. We have gone out together doing personal work and our brother has dealt kindly and effectively with those who need Christ.

"Four churches have been participating in our union meetings and Brother Chapman's ministry has been profitable to each denomination. He has emphasized the great cardinal truths of the gospel with a definite desire to win the lost and lead the Christians to a more separated and consecrated life.

"May the Lord continue to use our brother to the salvation of many precious souls."

A letter of August 23 from Brother Chapman praises the Lord for a good revival in Ash Flat, Arkansas. Brother Chapman says:

"Dear Dr. Rice:

"Praise God from whom all blessings flow!"

"The Lord has again proven that great revivals can be had yet today. August 1-15 I was with a little Baptist church in Ash Flat, Arkansas. The town is very small, about 250 in popu-

lation, I believe. The Lord gave us a wonderful revival there. Twenty people came and were carefully dealt with and publicly confessed the Lord Jesus as Saviour. There were twenty-one additions to the Baptist church, and nine of the converts did not unite with the Baptist church. I think most of the ones who did not unite with the Baptist will join the Methodist, and one, I know, planned to join the Christian Church.

"There were thirty-five who came forward renouncing all forms of worldliness and dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to the Lord. So altogether there were sixty-five definite public decisions for Christ made. Older people all said it was the best meeting they can remember being in that town.

"Surely the Lord is good and I praise Him for this great revival meeting. He does answer prayer and give great revivals today!"

"I trust that you are well and God is blessing abundantly. May God richly bless your radio ministry and enable you to reach many souls through it. Pray for me when you think of me.

"In Jesus' name,

(Signed) "Kenneth Chapman  
"John 3:30; Gal. 2:20"

Brother Chapman's home is at 1235 N. St. Louis Street, West Plains, Missouri. He is a graduate of Moody Bible Institute, sound in doctrine, growing in experience. May God richly bless his ministry.

Brother Chapman in an earlier letter said, "I am beginning now to save to be able to come to a future Sword Conference, and I hope it won't be too far distant. May God bless you, my brother. I am praying for you. Pray for me as the Lord leads."

## DID JESUS INSTANTLY BUILD HIS CHURCH AT PENTECOST?

By the Editor

In an article in *THE SWORD OF THE LORD* some time ago I said that the words of Jesus in Matthew 16:18, "... I will build my church," might well be translated, "I will be building." I think those interested in the subject will find the following correspondence helpful.

August 20, 1948

Dear Brother N—:

Thank you for your letter. I have gone very carefully over Brother W—'s opinion. You will understand, of course, that Brother W— is of the group which believes that the church started at Pentecost and he would be prejudiced, quite naturally, against any Bible interpretation that does not fit with this view. He is a good, honest man and I have a very high regard for him, but his opinion in such a matter is not conclusive.

I note the quotation from Drs. Dana and Mantey (I am not a good Greek scholar at all, but Dr. Mantey himself was my teacher in Southwestern Seminary, and Dr. Dana in the same schools). Note carefully that the *Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament* which Dr. W— quoted, says, "It is this foretold occurrence of a future event which is its basal significance, and any qualifying idea is derived from the context or the nature of the verbal idea." Exactly. The word *oikodomeo*, translated *build*, means simply "to build a house," and in the New Testament usage it is quite clear that always such a progressive work is indicated by this verb. "Built his house upon a rock," "Built a tower," "Ye

the Bible daily. It is surprising what peace and joy, what light upon a dark pathway, what answers to pressing problems one will find who begins to read with a reverent and believing heart the Word of God.

If I can help you further, I hope you will write me very frankly. Be assured of my good will and my interest in your problems. I wish I could know you personally and be whatever help a friend might be.

In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice

build the tombs of the prophets"—always the idea is not of a sudden event but of a slow, laborious building, stone upon stone. And that is exactly the way Christ is building His church, convert upon convert.

This term could not sensibly be applied to the instantaneous coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost but refers to the continual building with new converts being put into the body of Christ as they are saved. For example, I Peter 2:5 says, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." And in the margin of my Scofield Bible, instead of "are built up a spiritual house," is this rendering, "are being built up." That is exactly the idea of building, and that is exactly the way the church is being built. Every new convert is taken by the Holy Spirit and baptized into the body of Christ, built into the body of Christ and becomes a part of this house. Jesus could not have meant one kind of building in Matthew 16:18 and another way of building in I Peter 2:5. I must insist, with many scholars, that when Jesus said, "I will build my church," He meant the very same church He is now building, and the verb used for to build necessarily implies continued building, not one instantaneous act. No one builds a house as suddenly as the Holy Spirit came upon Christians at Pentecost, and Jesus would not have used the term which means to build a house if He had meant something so utterly unlike building.

This translation, "I will be building," was first called to my attention, I believe, in the writings of the late B. H. Carroll, gigantic founder of the Southwest-

## MEET US AT CHICAGO!

By the Editor

Better save Thanksgiving Week, November 21-28, for a great conference on evangelism at the Chicago Gospel Tabernacle (the famous Paul Rader Tabernacle) sponsored by *THE SWORD OF THE LORD*.

There are 2,800 seats, and we hope to fill them all.

Speakers already promised include:

Dr. Bob Jones

Dr. Joe Henry Hankins

Evangelist Billy Graham

Evangelist William H. Rice

Dr. Faris Whitesell, Professor of Evangelism at the Northern Baptist Seminary

Mr. Harry Saulnier, head of the Pacific Garden Mission

Mr. Frank Sheriff, Executive Secretary of the Christian Business Men's Committee of Chicago, and of course, the editor, Evangelist John R. Rice.

Among musicians to help are Elbert Tindley, the famous colored singer, and Emil Aanderud, extraordinary cornetist.

Auxiliary conferences are to be held in Wheaton and two other nearby cities at the same time, with cooperation from the best Christian leaders.

Meet us in Chicago Thanksgiving Week. Come to learn how to win souls, how to have revivals, how to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Come to be revived in heart, to wait on God for His blessing.

THE GREATEST PROGRAM, THE GREATEST ATTENDANCE, THE GREATEST BLESSING OF ALL THE SWORD CONFERENCES ON EVANGELISM IS EXPECTED.

ern Baptist Theological Seminary.

As the author quoted says, "Any qualifying idea is derived from the context or the nature of the verbal idea." The verbal idea here of *oikodomeo* certainly is not aoristic or punctiliar, that is, it is not one simple and instantaneous future event which Jesus meant in Matthew 16:18. Necessarily building a house is not one instantaneous event but a series of events, and the series of events will continue until the last living stone is built into the house which now, the Scripture says, "groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are built together..." (Eph. 2:21, 22).

Dr. W— says, "I submit that any one who really knows Greek, would not translate by using durative action in connection with a future tense word." I call Dr. W—'s attention to the plain statement which he himself quoted from page 191 of Dana and Mantey *Manual Grammar of the Greek New Testament*, "Any qualifying idea is derived from the context or the nature of the verbal idea." And where the verbal idea necessarily involves durative action, as building a house does, then any one who knows Greek would surely allow the translation using continuing action. And certainly that is the opinion of many Greek scholars about the translation of Matthew 16:18. Jesus did not mean, "I will instantly build my church." He meant, "As men build a house, stone by stone, so I will build (be building) my church, convert by convert." And that house still "groweth unto an holy temple in the Lord: In whom ye also are built together for a habitation of God through the Spirit."

No one can put Matthew 16:18 and I Peter 2:5 and Ephesians 2:21, 22 together and come out with an instantaneous building.

Thank you for the letter. Thank you for the booklet sent also. I was already familiar with it as quoted by Dr. Ironside in his book, *A Short History of the Brethren Movement*.

In the Saviour's name, yours,

John R. Rice.

JRR/vw



## Knowing God

(Continued from Page 3)

the rich and the poor, the high and the low, the good and the bad, the clean and the unclean, that he gave his only begotten Son (the only one He had, the One who had been with Him from the morning of eternity), that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

When I stand at the coffin of my dead and I look through blinding tears at the cold face, I turn away for a moment and see One hanging on the tree in agonies and blood, and that answers everything. When planes fly over cities and bombs drop and babies are mangled and women are dead and boys are killed and soldiers never come back, I just turn away from the smoke of the explosion and the dust of destruction and take a little look at Calvary where the Lamb of God hangs and bleeds and dies. Wait a minute, what do you want to know? You crazy sinner, what else do you want? Calvary answers it all. That is the answer.

Listen, you Christians, that is your answer to the world. That is your story. Isn't it sufficient? What else do you want? What else are you looking for? What else are you asking for? You understand it, don't you?

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

When Jesus Christ was in this world they said a good many things about Him. He endured such contradiction of sinners! Oh, the things they said about Him! One said one thing and somebody else said another thing. What strange things they said. They said, 'He is a carpenter's son, he is just one of us.' One day they saw Him walking on the water and they said, 'He is a ghost; he isn't real.' Is he real to you? One day a man, a scholar, a gentleman, a religious man, saw Him at night. He said to Jesus, 'You know, we have come to the conclusion that You must have come from God.' Listen, that is the highest reach of a human intellect—an effort to understand Jesus Christ. That is as high as man can go. 'You must have come from God,' this man said to Jesus.

Jesus said, 'You do not need a teacher. It would not do any good to teach you. You would not know what I was teaching. You need a life-giver. You need to be born again.'

They saw Him one day in the garden after He was raised from the dead. They thought He was the gardener. A gardener never creates anything. All a gardener does is to bring out of nature what is already there. The gardener helps nature unfold. Some people look on Jesus not as one who creates life but as one who beautifies life. They are willing to say that God paints the rose. Yes, but it is God who puts life in the roots and makes the rose bloom. Yes, He does touch life into beauty, but He also makes life. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life" (John 5:12). Here a man said, "Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." You cannot discover that. That is a revelation from God the Father. "This is my beloved Son," that is what God says. You might imagine that, but you could not know it if God did not tell you.

### Only Born-Again People Can Know God

Years ago I was holding a meeting in a very cultured city. A lady in that city said to me, "Dr. Jones, we have in this city the most brilliant man I know. He is a Unitarian. I do not know how to talk to him. Will you tell me how to convert him?"

I said, "That is dead easy; just convert him!" The man who doubts the deity of Jesus Christ, has never been born again. Brother, you may doubt some things, but when you put a question mark after the virgin birth of Jesus and the incarnation of Jesus and the deity of Jesus, you

have never been born again.

When I was a little country boy I might not have known what the word deity meant. I might not have understood the words vicarious and substitution, but that night at the front seat at that country church when I met Jesus Christ I knew that I had met God Almighty. Nobody but God could do for me what Jesus Christ did that night and what He has done a thousand times since. Do you know Him? You can know Him.

Some of you are in the fog. Some of you are tossed about upon the sea, the restless, storm-tossed sea. I am so sorry for you. You know I have something in my breast that is so precious. I would not part with it for all the world. I tell the folks at our college that if any student goes out without knowing Jesus, we have failed. Never mind how much knowledge that student might have gained, if he goes out without knowing Jesus Christ, we have failed that student.

If you do not know Jesus, it will not matter much what else you know. And if you know Jesus you know nearly everything that is worth knowing.

Years ago I was in Memphis, Tennessee, in a revival. One morning we had a testimony meeting. I said, "I want you to tell us what Jesus means to you in just a sentence. You cannot tell everything He means, but tell us something He means."

A man got up and said, "He is

the best Friend I ever had." Another one got up and said, "He is my Comfort in the hour of sorrow." A rather cultured man said, "He is my Star of Hope in the night of despair." Another said, "He is my personal Saviour." Another said, "He is my daily Companion and my best Friend." Another said, "He is dearer to me than my mother." Somebody said, "He is my all in all."

On the second seat I saw an old man. The fingers of time had pinched his face full of wrinkles. His hair was as white as snow. He got hold of the seat in front of him and tried to pull up. He made several efforts and it looked as if he were not going to make it. I was just getting ready to say, "Brother, you don't have to get up; just keep your seat and tell us." But he would not stop. He pulled up. He stood there for a minute with his old feeble shoulders trembling under the weight of his years and then he began to straighten up. He threw his shoulders back. He looked like a soldier on parade as he said something that I shall never forget. He said, "Brother Bob, I haven't got much in this world besides Jesus, but come to think about it, a fellow doesn't need much else." And he sat back down.

If you have Jesus Christ and know Him as your Saviour and God is your Father, brother, you know about everything that is worth knowing. And if you do not know that, you do not know any-

thing that is worth knowing, when you think of the things in the light of eternity.

"Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God." "Flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven."

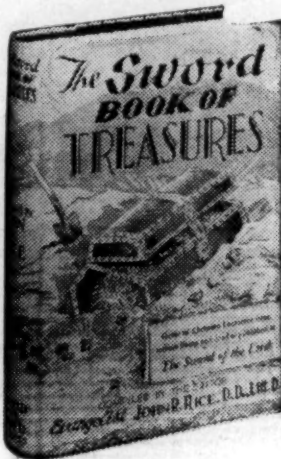
I want every head to be bowed, every eye closed while I ask you something; how many people here can say, "Bob Jones, I know what you are talking about. I met Jesus, too. I know Him; He is my personal Saviour. I know Jesus Christ. When I called God 'Father' I know what I am talking about. I know I am saved." Do you know it? If you do, put your hand up. (Hands are raised.) Thank God, keep them just a moment. It looks as if it might be almost unanimous. Now you may take your hands down.

Now, while our eyes are still closed, I wonder if there is somebody here today who says, "Bob Jones, I have known Jesus in sweet fellowship. I have been born again. But I have been out of fellowship with Christ; and I haven't any peace as I used to have. God helping me, tonight while our heads are bowed here under these trees on this hillside service, the best I know how I will come back into fellowship with Christ right where I am sitting." If you can say that, put your hand up. (Some hands are raised.)

I wonder if there is somebody here tonight who can say, "I have never been a Christian. I have never been saved. But I believe that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save me and I believe He is able to save me. I know I cannot save

myself, and right where I am tonight, right now, the best I know how I will trust Jesus as my Saviour and from tonight on I want to be found on His side." If you will say that while our heads are bowed and our eyes are closed, put your hand up. It may be that there is nobody here who is not a Christian, but if there is one here, trust Him where you are and put your hand up.

PRAYER: Blessed Jesus, we do love Thee. You know we love You. We could not get along without You, Jesus; we would be so lonely. We might have our loved ones die and leave us and still get along somehow; but Jesus, we wouldn't know what to do if we did not have You near us. You are so wonderful. Thank You for dying for us. Thank You for coming all the way down the stairway from the noonday of Heaven to the midnight of this earth. Thank You for going to the cross, bearing our sins in Your wonderful and precious body. Thank You for coming out of the tomb. Thank You for saving us. Jesus, You can have anything we have. If we have held back anything, we would like to surrender it to You. May this be a wonderful time here this week. Let a revival sweep over Winona. Lord, we need a revival. Let one break out here that these preachers will take back to their churches. Go with us to the next service. May we meet Jesus there. And now may the grace of the Lord Jesus, the love of God and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with us all. Amen.



## TREASURES!

What are the most important things to a Christian?

"The Lord Jesus Christ," you say. By all means!

"The Bible, the Word of God," another adds. Definitely!

"Salvation—the wonderful love of our Saviour." Of utmost importance!

"The glory of answered prayer," a Christian rejoices. Yes!

"The certainty and assurance we have as Christians." Of course!

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